



## Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists & Democrats in the European Parliament

**PRESS CONFERENCE with Hannes Swoboda**  
**Tuesday 20 November at 10.10 LOW N-1/201**

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### Preparations for the European Council meeting (22-23 November 2012) with particular reference to the Multiannual Financial Framework

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Wednesday, 21 - November 2012



Hannes Swoboda

The S&D Group in the European Parliament is urging for an adequate EU budget to strengthen European economies as well as the cohesion among member states. National interests should not prevail over EU interests. The revised negotiating position presented by Van Rompuy – which proposes further cuts – is unacceptable and does not offer a reasonable compromise for the European Parliament. The debate on the multi-annual financial framework (MFF) is about more substantial issues and the need to come up with a long-term solution to foster growth, competitiveness and job creation in Europe over the next seven years. For the S&D Group, the MFF must be a budget for growth and investment in areas such as research and development, the fight against youth unemployment and other measures to stimulate the economy and get Europe out of recession. Rebuilding economic strength is only possible if we strengthen the welfare state so that it strengthens the competitiveness of our continent.

### Enlargement: policies, criteria and the EU's strategic interests

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Wednesday, 21 - November 2012



Maria Eleni Koppa

The report reassesses the procedures of enlargement, taking into account both the experience of past enlargements and the new realities created by the economic crisis. Enlargement is the most successful external policy of the Union and has to remain in the EU toolbox. More particular objective is the enrichment of the accession criteria with social considerations and the enhancement of the voice of civil society both in the EU and the candidate countries. Candidate and potential candidate countries must fulfil all obligations, respect all commitments and create the conditions for ensuring the success of future enlargements. We recognise the importance of the role of social dialogue within the enlargement process; and we invite the Commission to pay more attention to developing enforcement mechanisms such as labour inspection to protect workers. The EU must ensure social rights, health and safety standards and combat worker exploitation.

### Towards a genuine Economic and Monetary Union

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Tuesday, 20 - November 2012



Liem Hoang Ngoc

The report, as adopted in the economic and monetary affairs committee (ECON), contains most of our demands for a social pact, including a European Youth Guarantee, a social protocol to protect fundamental social and labour rights and a social protection floor to guarantee universal access to health services. It also reinforces the democratic legitimacy and accountability of the governance framework for the economic and monetary union. On investment, the report insists on the need to implement the Council's Growth Compact and calls for a eurozone countercyclical fund, amounting to 1% of GDP within the EU budget.

### Social Investment Pact

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Monday, 19 - November 2012



Antigoni Papadopoulou

The S&D Group strongly believes that budget consolidation needs to be complemented by a Social Investment Strategy that will address the social, employment and education targets of the EU 2020 strategy. We call for a "Social Investment Pact", which invests in social and employment policies. The focus should be on creating quality and sustainable jobs, reducing the economic dependency ratio in order to maintain a large workforce and to keep a balance between flexibility and security in the labour market. Economic governance has to be accompanied by social governance.

### Granting delegated powers for the adoption of certain measures relating to the common commercial policy

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Thursday, 22 - November 2012



Jörg Leichtfried

Within the treaty of Lisbon the old "comitology" procedure was replaced by two new systems, namely the delegated and the implementing acts. Therefore existing pieces of legislation related to the EU's commercial policy need to be aligned. In the so called Omnibus II report, I mainly dealt with alignment into delegated acts. In order to preserve and to strengthen Parliament's position regarding external trade relations, I proposed a limitation for the delegation of powers for 5 years.



**Saïd  
El Khadraoui**

### **Shadow Banking**

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**Monday, 19 - November 2012**

Shadow banking refers to financial transactions and financial entities acting outside the normal financial regulatory area. Shadow banking played a major role in starting the financial crisis and its total value is estimated at around 50 trillion euro. This represents 25-30% of the total financial system and half the size of bank assets. A distinction should be drawn between desirable forms of shadow banking, which help to invest credit in the real economy, and undesirable forms, which generate systemic risks and enable regulatory arbitrage to flourish. To tackle the potentially systemic risks of shadow banking from a regulatory perspective, a clearer overview of the phenomenon is essential. Part of this process entails gathering increasing amounts of reliable data, in addition to new instruments to collect and analyse them. This monitoring exercise should help to distinguish effectively between wanted and unwanted kinds of shadow banking systems. In order to tackle this issue effectively, different regulatory steps are proposed by the rapporteur: exposure limit of banks to shadow banking entities; improved consolidation on bank balances; limits on securitisation and repo and security lending transactions. Moreover, stricter requirements must be imposed upon exchange-traded funds and money market funds, which, as we saw during the week of the collapse of Lehman Brothers, are extremely vulnerable to runs.



**Kinga  
Göncz**

### **Social Business Initiative**

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**Monday, 19 - November 2012**

Social enterprises often provide social services and are important drivers of sustainable employment, social innovation and the inclusion of vulnerable groups. Adequate financial and political support for social enterprises should therefore be ensured at Union and Member State level.



**Ioan Enciu**

### **Political assessment, Migration instruments for SIS II**

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The development of the second generation Schengen Information System was decided in 2001. After 12 years and several postponements, the migration process to SIS II is set to take place in 2013, with the condition that all the tests will be successful. The legal framework of the migration process was set up in 2008, via two legal instruments, Council Regulation 1104/2008 and Council Decision 2008/839/JHA. In order to achieve more clarity and to introduce some new elements such as the possibility of member states using all the functionalities of SIS II immediately after the switchover, a recast procedure is necessary, which is the purpose of the current proposals. S&D fully supports the adoption of both regulations in order to ensure a smooth migration process both from a legal point of view and from the perspective of assuring the necessary funding for its development.



**Jens Geier**

### **Presentation of the Court of Auditors' annual report - 2011**

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**Thursday, 22 - November 2012**

The Annual Report of the European Court of Auditors shows that the EU member states neglect their obligations to correctly manage EU funds in shared management. It is shocking to read that more than 60 percent of the errors found by the Court could have been detected by the member states. Therefore "better spending" is more an issue of better controls of the budget in the member states rather than of cuts to it.



**Anna Hedh**

### **Multiannual Framework for the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights for 2013-2017**

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The current Multiannual Framework (2007-2012) expires at the end of 2012. Therefore it is necessary to establish the Multiannual Framework of the Agency for the period 2013-2017, as required by Article 5 of the Regulation. Following the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon, police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters have become part of the law of the Union and are therefore covered by the scope of the tasks of the Agency. There was though no agreement in the Council as regards the inclusion of the proposed new thematic areas of police cooperation and judicial cooperation in criminal matters in the new Multiannual Framework. Although we believe that the European Parliament should decline to consent the Agency needs new thematic areas to work on to ensure continuity in its activities. Unless there is a new Multiannual Framework in place by the beginning of 2013, the Agency can only work if there is a specific request from an institution (Article 4(1) (c) and (d) of the Regulation) and not on its own initiative.

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